

Message Text

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14-10
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-04 OES-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 AGR-10

EB-07 L-02 AID-05 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GBHIGH:KK
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE
EPA:WLLOYD (DRAFT)
OES/ENP/EN:PGLASOE (SUBSTANCE)
CEQ:LSLAWECKI (DRAFT)

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R 031950Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

UNCLAS STATE 046969

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ECRE, BF

SUBJECT: SLUDGE PROJECT

REF: NASSAU 222; STATE 6907

1. DEPT AND EPA ARE UNABLE TO GO MUCH BEYOND INFORMATION
ALREADY SUPPLIED BY STATE 6907. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO RALPH
HALLER, MINISTER ANTHONY ROBERTS HAS GIVEN ORAL ASSURANCES
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT BAHAMAS CABINET APPROVAL HAS
BEEN GIVEN FOR PROJECT.)

2. NATURE OF SLUDGE WAS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. A DETAILED
CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PHILADELPHIA SLUDGE BEDS PREPARED
BY EPA IS BEING POUCHEO. RESULTS OF ANALYSIS ARE NOT
EVALUATED BECAUSE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC USES OF SLUDGE
IS REQUIRED FOR PROPER EVALUATION.

3. THERE ARE DIVIDED OPINIONS AMONG TECHNICIANS AS TO
SIGNIFICANCE OF METAL CONTENT OF SLUDGE AND ITS EFFECT
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ON FOODSTUFFS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. EPA IS FUNDING

SEVERAL TEST STUDIES, ONE IN FULTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND
ANOTHER AT MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN. DEFINITIVE RESULTS ARE

NOT EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME AND EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM
BUILDUP OF HEAVY METALS FROM SLUDGE APPLICATION ARE NOT
FULLY ADDRESSED IN THESE PROJECTS.

4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT RALPH T. HALLER
ASSOCIATES ARE TO BE HIRED TO MONITOR CAT ISLAND PROJECT.
(AFTER THIS SPECIFIC PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, TREATED
SLUDGE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SHIPPED TO CAT ISLAND FOR
DEHYDRATION AND SALE FOR USE ON OTHER ISLANDS.) HALLER'S
TASK WOULD BE TO ASSURE AGAINST UNHEALTHFUL CONCENTRATION
OF DANGEROUS METALS. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, APPARENTLY,
TEST WELLS WOULD BE DRILLED ADJACENT TO SLUDGE STORAGE
AREA AND PERIODIC SAMPLINGS TAKEN OF GROUND WATER FOR
VERIFICATION AGAINST LEAKAGE FROM TANKS.

5. HALLER INFORMS DEPT THAT HE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVES
ARE PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO NASSAU TO PROVIDE FURTHER
BRIEFINGS FOR BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS. EPA WOULD ALSO BE
WILLING TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GCOB OFFICIALS (FROM
NASSAU OR THEIR EMBASSY HERE) IN WASHINGTON. SHOULD
BAHAMIANS WISH FURTHER PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENTS, EPA COULD
PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH OTHER GOVT EXPERTS AND PRIVATE
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS IN THIS FIELD. KISSINGER

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